



Passing of Volunteer-In-Park Jim Scruggs

On October 22, 2012, Thomas Stone National Historic Site lost a very dear friend; park VIP James Thomas “Jim” Scruggs II, who died of lung cancer. Jim was 77 at the time of his death.

Jim was born on June 5, 1935, in Elkton, Virginia. After graduating from Randolph-Macon College in Ashland, Virginia, Jim moved to California where he spent 32 years as an English teacher in the Bakersfield School System. Following his retirement, Jim moved back to Virginia and in October, 2000, Jim started his “second career” as a National Park Service volunteer beginning at Ford’s Theatre NHS. He spent a number of years here and at other sites associated with the National Mall before heading to Thomas Stone NHS in Charles County, MD.

In addition to his valuable work with school groups and park visitors, Jim also helped to produce the park's annual Christmas program by writing scripts for docents and performing a first-person interpretive skit as Thomas Stone's uncle, Daniel of St. Thomas Jenifer, which was based on the Revolutionary War writings between Stone and Jenifer. Jim was very photogenic and always seemed to be the person that local newspapers highlighted in their photographs of the event!

"Jim was a warm, caring, and thoroughly decent man and I count it as a great privilege to have known him for the last twelve years of his life," says Scott Hill, Chief of Interpretation (THST/GEWA). His loss will be felt by all who knew him for years to come.